



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

437th AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
102 East Hill Blvd., Rm. 223, Charleston AFB, S.C. 29404-5154
Phone: (843) 963-5608, 5537 or 5589; Fax (843) 963-5604

PAO email: linda.pepin@charleston.af.mil
After duty hours, call command post at (843) 963-2531, and ask for the PA representative.

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CAFB ICE HOCKEY TEAM TAKES ON NAVY TEAM BEFORE STINGRAYS

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. – The Charleston Air Force Base ice hockey team is taking on the local Navy team in the second of three Military Appreciation Cup games at the North Charleston Coliseum Saturday, 4:30 p.m.

The Air Force team won the first game of the series 8-4 prior to Military Appreciation Night Nov. 15, 2003.

The Air Force team, which competes in B-league at the Carolina Ice Palace, is looking to sweep the Navy in all three games, said team captain, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Connor.

"There is some real talent on this team, and we've gotten better as we've had more time to practice," said Connor. "I hope we can bring the first-ever Military Appreciation Cup to Charleston AFB. It would be a great reward for the guys who've worked so hard to establish a quality hockey program for the base."

Alternate Air Force captain Staff Sgt. Jason Smith said the pace of the Air Force and Navy game won't be quite as fast as the Stingray game, but it does bring a unique perspective to hockey fans.

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“Our team has a huge range in talent,” said Smith. “We have a couple guys who I think could’ve made it to the ECHL, and we have a couple guys who are just learning how to play.

“Every game is exciting because we don’t know until game time who will be skating,” continued Smith. “We have guys from the team flying to Iraq and not able to play, guys who make it back from Germany just in time to take the ice, and guys who leave us for months at a time to perform their military duties at far away places. I think that’s a really neat angle for anyone who appreciates hockey.”

The third and final Air Force and Navy game of the season is scheduled for April 3 prior to the Stingray game.

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(For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Jason Smith at (843) 963-5608.)